

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Happy Birthday Iliana!
- Important Dates
- New Faces
- Special Service Project/ Fundraiser
- Brain Candy

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Welcome to the Family

On Monday, July 16 Texas Campus Compact welcomed ten new AmeriCorps VISTA members into the fold. They arrived in Austin for Pre-Service Orientation and training specific to the Compact.

Pre-PSO spanned two days and was held at St. Edward's University. Most of the VISTA members who attended the training met with their site supervisors and engaged in team-building and communication style activities.

The Texas Conference of Churches, a disaster relief organization, joined Texas Campus Compact during the training.

Our newest VISTA members come to us from across the country and the state of Texas.



Our newest VISTAs at July PSO

All will be serving at member campuses already familiar with the VISTA program, beginning new projects and continuing the work of past members.

TXCC would also like to welcome the latest addition to the state office, Matt Zielsdorf, VISTA leader. Matt served his first term at St. Edward's University in the Student Life office and assisted on several state office projects throughout the year.

Congratulations to Texas Campus Compact VISTAs Matt Lashlee and Glenda Bivens. Who have chosen to continue serving with AmeriCorps as VISTA leaders for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We look forward to continuing our partnership with THECB and working with you throughout the year.

VISTA Successes Great & Small

Steve Godecke, Collin County Community College

When I was asked to write this article, about my biggest success while serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Collin County Community College, I was quite stumped at first. Although I have spent the past nineteen months working to customize and support a web-based registration system for Collin's service-learning students – and it is progressing very well – I can't claim it as a success yet, because it will not begin to serve the College for at least another month. What success

would I be willing to trumpet, then? Redesigning the two websites run by my office, the Center for Scholarly & Civic Engagement? They look much improved, and hopefully visitors will be able to find the information they're looking for quickly and easily.

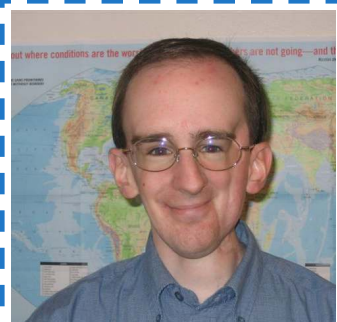
But sometimes the effects of the most basic projects can rival the most grandiose. Part of the AmeriCorps pledge says, "I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities." The new addition to our service-learning website should accom-

plish this. But so did something I finished in mid-March, when I typed fifty-two names into my computer. Before that day, when we wanted to contact all the faculty who offered service-learning in their courses at Collin, we had to send documents to their campus mailboxes or leave them all voicemails.

Now, we have email lists that can address them all or select offices from a particular campus. Not

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VISTA Successes



Steve Godecke

only is this the fastest way to make announcements, it could also enable feedback and group discussions. The first message sent using the new lists invited faculty to request features and submit sample course materials for the service-learning website. The second message was the announcement of the new

service-learning registration system.

Bringing Americans together does not always require thousands of dollars, or years of project time. Those resource-intensive efforts can be the most exciting, and return great rewards, but it remains impor-

tant to make the best possible use of the tools and partnerships we already have.

Important Dates

Aug. 9: Conference call with new VISTAs

Aug. 10: Conference call with returning VISTAs

Aug. 21: Pre-PSO & PSO trainings in Austin

Aug. 31: Activity reports due

Sep. 3: Labor Day

Sep. 4: Deadline to register for CSD Retreat

Sep. 7: Project I due

Sep. 10: Deadline to submit September Televista articles

Sep. 13: Conference call

Sep. 26: Activity reports due

Sep. 27-28: CSD Retreat in Austin

Bringing the Community into the Classroom



Molly Baldwin, Texas Christian University

The Service-Learning program at Texas Christian University has become more visible on campus over the past year due to several new developments implemented by the Center for Community Involvement and Service-Learning. A Faculty Steering Committee was created in the fall to promote dialogue among faculty regarding service-learning. This group of 12 faculty members meets approximately twice a semester to discuss how to promote service inside the classroom. They aid in conducting needs-assessments to determine the status of service-learning at TCU as well as provide training to faculty through service-learning work-

shops featuring guest speakers such as Kathy Engelken, Executive Director of Illinois Campus Compact, and Dr. Edward Zlotkowski, series editor for Service-Learning in the Disciplines.

The Center for Community Involvement and Service-Learning also developed several Service-Learning Course Development Grants to provide faculty with the necessary funds to develop and implement a service-learning course. These grants provided the opportunity for seven faculty to create six different courses that included community components ranging from developing an Emergency Preparedness Fair for an area neighborhood to creating a public relations plan for a local nonprofit organization.

An Undergraduate Research Assistantship was also created to give one student the opportunity to create a service-learning project. Mark Dunleavy, a class of 2008 physics major, created a project that introduced high school students to a research laboratory environment. Both the faculty grants and the undergraduate assistantship helped to introduce the TCU community to what it means to conduct a service-learning course. With the help of the Faculty Steering Committee and continuing support of the Faculty Grants and Assistantships, the Center for Community Involvement and Service-Learning aims to educate more students and faculty about service-learning in order to make a lasting impact on the TCU campus and the Fort Worth community.

Caras Nuevas

Texas Campus Compact warmly welcomes our newest VISTA members:

- Garnesha Beck**, UT Tyler
- Jacob Beswick**, Our Lady of the Lake University
- Ansa Copeland**, Southwestern University
- Jessica Estroga**, Austin Community College
- Paul Felarca**, St. Mary's University

- Vivek Gopalan**, Rice University
- Jennifer Huesers**, Blinn College
- Joseph Macchia**, Southern Methodist University
- Iliana Melendez**, UT Austin
- Caroline Nichols**, St. Edward's University

¡Buena Suerte!

The VISTA-Supervisor Relationship, Part I



Ethan Ruff and supervisor, Glen Baumgart, at the inaugural NCCE

Ethan Ruff, University of Texas at Austin

To begin with, I'd like to say congratulations to each of you as

you begin your year of VISTA service. Working as a Texas Campus Compact VISTA will offer you some great opportunities for personal and professional growth, and I hope you are all excited and optimistic about getting started.

After serving for a year and a half in the TXCC program, I have come to believe that nothing has a bigger impact on the quality of a VISTA's year of service than the quality of the VISTA-supervisor relationship. I have had the opportunity to experience both good and bad supervisory situations; my initial VISTA placement actually turned

out so badly that I felt forced to request a transfer. While I don't have the space here to relate all the specific details of that experience, I would like to share some of the lessons I learned from it.

It is particularly vital that you establish clear lines of communication early. As you enter your position, pay close attention to the expectations that your supervisor describes to you; if you have issues with anything or are

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¡Feliz Cumplianos!

Iliana Melendez

celebrates her birthday

August 8. She is an avid fan of Frank Sinatra, loves her dog, Sam, and all 13 of her fish (interestingly, all the fish have mafia related names). Iliana is "a sucker for a great coffee house and a good book."

Recommended birthday

gifts: pooper-scooper, cement shoe laces, *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison.



Next issue's theme

The Great Migration: Students Return to Campus

~Special Announcements~

Service Project/Fundraiser

Better World Books (BWB) partners with student organizations to run local campus book drives. BWB collects unwanted, used textbooks and repurposes them for literacy causes in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States. This is accomplished by working with four very special nonprofit organizations: **Books For Africa, Room To Read, World Education and Development Fund** and the

National Center for Family Literacy.

If you'd like to help break the cycle of poverty at its core, through literacy and education, BWB will provide your student organization with ALL necessary support. This includes: staff assistance, public awareness materials (posters, flyers, etc.), collection and shipping boxes, paid freight to the collection center and pizza for a planning session. It doesn't get any easier than this! All

you have to do is implement the program. You will receive 50 cents per donated book. Consider making a lifelong difference in the lives of many people where education is a privilege and sometimes only a dream.

Check out our website at: www.BetterWorldBooks.com. Please contact: Laurie Lawson, Southwest Regional Director, 512.297.5517 or laurie@betterworldbooks.com

On Being Mexican Me in My New Community, Part I

Josh Franco, Our Lady of the Lake University

I wrote this essay as a direct result of two related service-learning projects. In Fall 2006, a Mexican American Studies class, under the tutelage of Gerry Garcia, Mural Coordinator for San Anto Cultural Arts (community partner for this project), created traditional papier-mâché masks. They then used the masks to add to the numbers of

participants marching in the annual San Anto Dia de los Muertos procession. I sat through the workshop with Gerry and later made a mask as well. This was one of my favorite experiences that my Service-Learning Coordinator position has afforded me.

As I write, the Mexican-American community in which I live (second highest concentration in the US outside of LA) is counting rapidly

down to the *Dia de los Muertos*. On this upcoming Day of the Dead, the streets in my neighborhood will populate with masked processionists. Our route is firmly mapped out among the streets of San Anto. The masks we wear will be the work of our own hands. In a time-consuming process involving Styro-

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Muerte y Manzana en Amarillo y Negro como las Abejas Siniestros (Death & Fruit in the Sinister Yellow-and-black of Bees)

My New Community

foam beauty salon heads, clay, *papier-mâché* and hours of construction and decoration, we create the faces through the donning of which we will escape ourselves.

Mexican thing here. As a US Latino of Mexican descent, what did it mean for me to appropriate these images? One must have something to do with the other...

After staring for a few moments at my own blank face, I found myself starting predictably. Within

“The masks we wear will be the work of our own hands.”

The lowest common denominator I could find is exoskeletal. On the evening of *el Día de los Muertos*, the glue-stiffened

that Mexican motif that the English speaking world often deems “macabre,” I began with a simple pen drawing of a skeleton in place of this invented visage’s right eye. I then drew an apple in the left eyescape. From bones to fruit, I watched as my own ideas were realized in cheap acrylic. The stream of consciousness ran: ‘apple of my eye’ being obvious, ‘an apple a day, keeps the doctor away’ came next, and so on, but none of them satisfied. I was doing a very

masks worn to protect the identities of soft, brown faces during the day will be laid next to graves, alongside offerings of fruit, whose exterior rinds futilely protect their fleshy pulps. Emerging from the ground, the military bugs in their petrific shells will leave behind the stripping of one set of bones to get at their own share of these encased offerings, leaving behind only knobby pits and pithy seeds. Only the most rigid materials remain after the candle-lit ceremonies and nocturnal cants of this Mexican celebration cease. Only exoskeletons, and those encased in them survive. Somehow or another, I am supposedly connected to all of this.

Relationship

confused, ask for clarification right away. It is important to know that there may be a feeling out period, before trust is established, and that there will be times when you will have to do work that wasn’t in your work plan, work that you may not enjoy or understand the relevance of. This is just part of being in an office, and it will be your responsibility to accept and understand this. While you will need to work to meet these expectations and integrate yourself into the office, your supervisor also has their own obligations to you; to aid you in finding work that fits your interests, and to put you in a position to do the work described in your work plan. Remember that you have a right to expect some say in what your responsibilities will be and to pursue work related to your personal and professional goals. If you are coming into your position with certain goals regarding your professional development, or if you are particularly passionate about a part of your work plan, make sure that you take the time to make that clear to your supervisor and open a dialogue.

Sudoku

		1						
		2		3				4
			5			6		7
5			1	4				
	7						2	
			7	8				9
8	7			9				
4			6		3			
					5			

5								
			4					
		3		6				
	1							
		6						
		4					1	

Dulce para el Cerebro

Word Jumble

Jumble theme: Community Helpers

- olriceeocpiff _____
- iefhiretrgf _____
- tsndiet _____
- odrcot _____
- tcchetira _____
- raerbrb _____
- atehcer _____
- aertwi _____
- rseretcya _____
- enurs _____
- lrbaanri _____
- oermth _____
- hftera _____
- arrianmpe _____
- rlcsouneo _____
- egrobinh _____

Cryptoquote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

VPK VTSQIGK YNVP VKGGNZD
B DSSC MVSTX NM VPBV NV
NZHBTNBIGX TKANZCM VPK
SVPKT UKGGSY SU B CQGG

S Z K . — M N C J B K M B T
Yesterday’s Cryptoquote: THE BEST WAY TO
BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH A SUBJECT IS TO
WRITE A BOOK ABOUT IT. — BENJAMIN
DISRAELI